

# MISCELLANY

Under this department are ordinarily grouped: News Items; Letters; Special Articles; Twenty-Five Years Ago column; California Board of Medical Examiners; and other columns as occasion may warrant. Items for the News column must be furnished by the fifteenth of the preceding month. For Book Reviews, see index on the front cover, under Miscellany.

## NEWS

### Coming Meetings.†

*California Medical Association*, Hotel Del Monte, Del Monte, California, May 5-8, 1941.

*American Medical Association*, Cleveland, Ohio, June 2-6, 1941.

*American College of Physicians*, Statler Hotel, Boston, April 21-25, 1941.

### Medical Broadcasts.\*

**American Medical Association Series of Radio Programs: Every Wednesday, 7:30 p. m., Pacific Time, Over Blue Network.**—*Doctors at Work* is the title of the sixth annual series of dramatized radio programs to be presented by the American Medical Association and the National Broadcasting Company.

The series was opened on Wednesday, November 13, 1940, to run for thirty consecutive weeks, closing with a broadcast from the American Medical Association meeting at Cleveland on June 3, 1941. The program is scheduled for 10:30 p. m., Eastern standard time (9:30, Central; 8:30, Mountain; 7:30, Pacific time) over the Blue Network, other NBC stations, and Canadian stations.

The programs will dramatize what modern medicine offers the individual in the way of opportunities for better health and the more successful treatment of disease. Incidental to this main theme, the programs will explain the characteristics of the different fields of modern medicine and its specialties.

"Doctors at Work" will be broadcast from scripts by William J. Murphy, NBC script writer and author of many previous American Medical Association and NBC "shows" and other popular radio features. It will be produced under the direction of J. Clinton Stanley, director of "Medicine in the News," last season's successful American Medical Association and NBC health program. Supervision will be by the American Medical Association Bureau of Health Education, directed by Dr. W. W. Bauer.

These programs are broadcast on what is known in radio as a sustaining basis; that is, the time is furnished gratis by the radio network and local stations and no revenue is derived from the programs. Therefore, local stations may or may not take the programs, at their discretion, except those stations which are owned and operated by the National Broadcasting Company.

Descriptive posters for local distribution may be had gratis from the Bureau of Health Education, American Medical Association, 535 North Dearborn Street, Chicago. Program titles will be announced weekly in *The Journal of the American Medical Association* (see *J. A. M. A.* index under *Radio Broadcasts*) and monthly in *Hygeia*, *The Health Magazine*.

† In the front advertising section of *The Journal of the American Medical Association*, various rosters of national officers and organizations appear each week, each list being printed about every fourth week.

\* County societies giving medical broadcasts are requested to send information as soon as arranged (stating station, day, date and hour, and subject) to CALIFORNIA AND WESTERN MEDICINE, 450 Sutter Street, San Francisco, for inclusion in this column.

NOTE: On April 2 and 9, the American Medical Association radio broadcasts will feature Cancer Control. Stations include Blue Network of the National Broadcasting Company. Time for the series: Wednesdays at 7:30 p. m.

**American Medical Association Broadcasts: "Medicine in the News."**—The American Medical Association and the National Broadcasting Company have announced "Medicine in the News," on timely topics from medical news of the week. Thursdays, 4:30 p. m., Eastern standard time (1:30 p. m., Pacific standard time), Blue Network, coast to coast. Thirty weeks. Opened on November 2, 1939. Facts, drama, entertainment, music.

#### Pacific States:

KECA	Los Angeles	KEX	Portland
KFSD	San Diego	KJR	Seattle
KGO	San Francisco	KTMS	Santa Barbara
	KGA	Spokane	

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#### Los Angeles County Medical Association.

The following is the Los Angeles County Medical Association's radio broadcast schedule for the month of March, 1941.

Saturday, March 1—KFI, 9:45 a. m., The Road of Health.  
Saturday, March 1—KFAC, 10:15 a. m., Your Doctor and You.

Saturday, March 8—KFI, 9:45 a. m., The Road of Health.  
Saturday, March 8—KFAC, 10:15 a. m., Your Doctor and You.

Saturday, March 15—KFI, 9:45 a. m., The Road of Health.  
Saturday, March 15—KFAC, 10:15 a. m., Your Doctor and You.

Saturday, March 22—KFI, 9:45 a. m., The Road of Health.  
Saturday, March 22—KFAC, 10:15 a. m., Your Doctor and You.

Saturday, March 29—KFI, 9:45 a. m., The Road of Health.  
Saturday, March 29—KFAC, 10:15 a. m., Your Doctor and You.

#### Donation to California Medical Association Archives.

The official journal of the California Medical Association brought off the press its first number in November, 1902, as the *California State Journal of Medicine*, under the editorship of its founder, the late Philip Mills Jones. The first volume of the OFFICIAL JOURNAL is now a rare publication. Dr. Thomas C. McCleave of Berkeley recently brought to the editorial office, for deposit in the Association archives, his bound copy of Volume I, a gift much appreciated, and for which thanks are extended.

**Britain Asks Closer Control of Medical Aid.**—Chairman Norman H. Davis announced here that the British Ministry of Health has notified the American Red Cross that in the future all British requests for doctors, nurses, hospital supplies and surgical equipment would be referred to the American Red Cross through the British Red Cross.

The British statement was made, Mr. Davis said, in an effort to coordinate the relief activities and to conserve vital shipping space and priorities for the types of medical supplies most needed in Great Britain.

**California State Medical Bowling Association.**—The following letter has been received:

*To the Editor:*—Kindly insert the following item in CALIFORNIA AND WESTERN MEDICINE:

"It is the desire of a number of medical men of California to organize a bowling league consisting of men, all of whom are members of the California State Medical Association, to be known as the California State Medical Bowling Association. We will meet yearly in the convention city of the California State Medical Association to bowl in tournament matches to determine the championship team for the state. This year, at Monterey, we would like each county represented by one five-man team so that we can develop a permanent organization at that time. At this tournament can be determined the best team to represent the state at a tournament to be held at Cleveland at the time of the American Medical Association Convention, where a national bowling organization may be formed on a permanent basis. County societies that have teams or can organize a team, kindly communicate with Dr. Lewis Wine Bremerman, 1709 West Eighth Street, Los Angeles, California."

**American College of Surgeons to Hold Sectional Meeting in Salt Lake City.**—March 26, 27, and 28 have been set as the dates for a sectional meeting of the American College of Surgeons in which the states of Oregon, Washington, California, Nevada, Idaho, Wyoming, New Mexico, Arizona, Colorado, Montana, and Utah will participate. Headquarters will be at the Hotel Utah in Salt Lake City.

The five approved hospitals of Salt Lake City will provide an excellent clinical background for the College meeting. They will hold operative and nonoperative clinics each morning during the meeting, and will also hold demonstrations of hospital procedures for the hospital executives who will attend the Hospital Conference, which will be sponsored by the College during the same three days. The University of Utah School of Medicine will arrange anatomical, pathological, and other demonstrations.

Distinguished surgeons from all parts of the country will address the scientific sessions and lead the conferences and panel discussions. At the headquarters hotel there will be educational and scientific exhibits and showing of motion pictures portraying surgical and hospital procedures. Daily bulletins will be issued listing the various clinics, sessions, conferences, and other events of each day. A large public meeting at the Mormon Tabernacle on the subject of "Conservation of Health" on the evening of the third day will be the final feature.

A preliminary list of speakers includes the following Californians: Dr. Verne C. Hunt, Dr. E. Eric Larson, and Dr. Charles T. Sturgeon of Los Angeles; Dr. Charles A. Dukes of Oakland; Dr. Howard C. Naffziger, Dr. H. Glenn Bell, Dr. Leo Eloesser, and Dr. Emile Holman of San Francisco; and Dr. John H. Woolsey of Woodland; from Colorado, Dr. George B. Kent, Dr. George B. Packard, Dr. Casper F. Hegner, and Dr. C. Walter Metz of Denver; from Montana, Dr. Frank L. McPhail of Great Falls; from Oregon, Dr. Ralph C. Matson and Dr. Adalbert G. Bettman of Portland; from Washington, Dr. Paul G. Flothow of Seattle; from Utah, Dr. Howard P. Kirtley, Dr. Leland R. Cowan, and Dr. Ray T. Woolsey of Salt Lake City; from Chicago, Dr. Michael L. Mason; from Cleveland, Dr. Charles C. Higgins; from New Orleans, Dr. Alton Ochsner; from Durham, North Carolina, Dr. Edwin C. Hamblen; and from New York City, Dr. Frank E. Adair.

Signed, California State Executive Committee: Verne C. Hunt, M. D., Los Angeles; Emile Holman, M. D., San Francisco; Clarence E. Rees, M. D., San Diego; Alson R. Kilgore, M. D., San Francisco; and John Homer Woolsey, M. D., Woodland.

**Psittacosis Control.**—In Southern California, during the month of December, 6,339 shell parakeets and 882 larger psittacine birds were shipped out of the state under authorizations from this department. Eighty-one aviaries were inspected, and 110 shell parakeets were destroyed in an aviary proved infected with psittacosis. Psittacosis infection was reported by the Wisconsin and the Connecticut State Health Departments in two persons and the infection traced to shell parakeets purchased in California. Birds from certain aviaries were placed under quarantine. Beginning January 1, no shell parakeets can be shipped out of California, and plans are under way to test all psittacine aviaries in the state to determine where the infected birds are.

**Cleveland Opens First Health Museum in United States.**—The first independent museum of health in this country, the Cleveland Museum of Health, was opened recently under medical and civic leadership and the technical direction of Dr. B. Bebbard.

Containing three dimensional models of the body mechanisms, animated diagrams, and other displays relating to various body functions and health problems, the Museum of Health's exhibits are planned to interest as well as educate the citizens of this city.

Other permanent health exhibits are established at the Rosenwald museum in Chicago, the Toledo Museum of Science, the Buffalo Museum of Science, and the New York Museum of Science and Industry.

**Social Hygiene and Defense.**—An outstanding public health event of the Los Angeles Health Defense week in Los Angeles was a conference on Social Hygiene on Wednesday, February 5, under the auspices of the American Social Hygiene Association. The theme of the three sessions was the control of syphilis and gonorrhea as related to the concentration of men in the national defense preparedness program.

This theme was discussed by representatives of the Army, Navy, United States Public Health Service, various civic groups, Police Department, State V. D. Bureau, and by Dr. Walter Clarke, Executive Director of the American Social Hygiene Association.

During the first World War, it was stated, syphilis and gonorrhea together caused a loss of 7,000,000 man-days to the Army, a loss not exceeded by that due to any other cause, except battle wounds and influenza.

**Oxnoxious Odors from Oil Refineries.**—Complaints by San Francisco residents of offensive odors attributed to gases emanating from oil refineries in the East Bay area were investigated recently at the request of the San Francisco City Health Department. Inspections of refineries and other industrial establishments in Alameda and Contra Costa counties revealed that these companies are taking every possible precaution to prevent the escape of poisonous and malodorous gases and fumes from processes in which these substances are generated or evolved as by-products. No cases of illness which might be due to such atmospheric contaminants were found among employees of the plants or among residents in the vicinity of the plants. Highly sensitive test papers, posted at locations where the complaints originated, showed that poisonous gases which might emanate from industrial establishments were not reaching these points in demonstrable quantities.

Under certain atmospheric and weather conditions, disagreeable-smelling gases and fumes from plants in the East Bay region are evidently carried across the Bay in sufficient quantities to be perceptible by the sense of smell, thus creating an odor nuisance to San Francisco residents; but there is no evidence to indicate that such gases travel more than a few hundred feet from their source in concentrations sufficiently great to be detrimental to health.

**Optometry School Established.**—Separate schools of optometry and architecture have been established by the regents of the University of California upon recommendation of President Robert G. Sproul. The Board met in Los Angeles. By this action was established the School of Optometry, leading to the degree of Bachelor of Science.

In explaining the action, President Sproul said:

"At present the curricula in architecture and in optometry are administered within the College of Letters and Science. However, because of their technical nature, it is felt that these curricula are not properly placed in a college whose chief concern is to provide curricula 'designed to acquaint students with several areas of knowledge, to give breadth of culture and to offer opportunity to acquire the discipline to be derived from extensive study of some main field of intellectual activity.' Because of this lack of harmony between the objectives of the curricula in architecture and optometry, and the objectives of the College of Letters and Science, it is believed that the establishment of definite units responsible for each of the technical curricula and the guidance of the students pursuing those curricula will result in more effective administration of the curricula than is now possible, and at the same time will free the authorities of the College of Letters and Science from the necessity of supervising activities that are not germane to the main purpose of the College."

**Vital Statistics.**—The provisional reports of the United States Census Bureau show a total of 1,387,797 deaths in 1939 for some forty-five states, as compared with 1,381,391 in 1938.

The mortality rates from the following diseases were the lowest reported during the past five years: Typhoid and paratyphoid fever, measles, scarlet fever, diphtheria, encephalitis, meningitis, tuberculosis, malaria, pellagra, pneumonia, digestive diseases, diarrhea and enteritis (under two years), nephritis, and accidents, including automobile accidents.

The death rate from pneumonia was unusually low in 1939, due to the more extensive use of diagnostic techniques and of new methods of treatment.

The widespread safety campaign against automobile accidents contributed to a decreased death rate from this cause for the second consecutive year. The provisional rate for fatal automobile accidents was 23.7 per 100,000 population for 1939, 20 per cent less than the corresponding rate of 1937, in which year the highest death rate from this cause was reported.

Mortality from each of the four principal communicable diseases of childhood—measles, whooping cough, scarlet fever, and diphtheria—decreased appreciably for 1939. The death rate from diphtheria has declined nearly 50 per cent during the past five years.

The principal diseases for which higher mortality rates were reported in 1939 than in 1938 are: influenza, cancer, diabetes, cerebral hemorrhage, and heart disease.

Cancer, diabetes, cerebral hemorrhage, and heart disease, are primarily disorders of middle adult life and old age, and the increase in deaths from these causes is largely due to the ageing of the population. The rise in each instance, except in diabetes, was less than 4 per cent over the rate for 1938.

The provisional infant mortality rate of 47 per 1,000 live births was the lowest on record and represents a decline of 15 per cent during the past five years. Only five states reported higher rates in 1939 than in 1938.

After a temporary increase in 1937 and 1938, the birth rate declined about 2 per cent during 1939. Twenty-eight of the forty-six states reported decreases. The crude rate of natural increase of 6.6 per 1,000 population in 1939 was slightly less than that recorded in 1938, namely, 7.0 per 1,000.

**The Journal of Clinical Endocrinology.**—This new journal will cover the practical aspects of endocrine medicine and will be issued monthly on the tenth of each month, beginning on January 10, 1941. Twelve issues will be published in 1941. The twelve issues will constitute Volume 1. Each issue will contain about ninety pages of text. Correspondence on editorial matters and manuscripts should be sent to Dr. Milton Lee, Managing Editor, 25 Shattuck Street, Boston, Massachusetts.

**A Secretary's Lament.**—The Hollywood Junior Chamber of Commerce presents:

If a secretary writes a letter, it's too long,  
If he sends a postal, it's too short,  
If he doesn't send a notice, he's lazy.  
If he attends a committee meeting, he's butting in,  
If he stays away, he's a shirker.  
If he duns the members for dues, he's insulting,  
If he fails to collect, he's slipping.  
If he asks for advice, he's incompetent,  
If he doesn't, he's bullheaded.  
If he writes his reports complete, they're too long,  
If he condenses them, they're incomplete.  
If he talks on a subject, he's trying to run things,  
If he remains quiet, he's lost interest in the meetings.

Ashes to ashes,  
Dust to dust,  
If others won't do it,  
The secretary must.

**World Health.**—World conditions were not conducive to good reporting of quarantinable diseases during the calendar year 1939. The Public Health Service continued to receive reports from officers of the Service, American consulates, and international health organizations. Incidence of disease here recorded can do no more than indicate the trends; actual numbers would no doubt exceed those reported. Owing to present war conditions, no accurate information can be obtained for large areas of the world.

The reported world prevalence and mortality of smallpox in 1939 was 164,771 cases and 33,026 deaths, as compared with 124,269 cases and 26,148 deaths in 1938. The 129,615 cases and 30,134 deaths in India alone exceeded world totals for 1938. A decline was registered in the United States, with 9,877 cases of smallpox in 1939, as compared with 14,939 in 1938; Belgian Congo reported 6,731 cases in 1939.

A total of 38,700 cases of plague was reported with more than 22,000 deaths in 1939. India alone reported 38,078 cases and 20,718 deaths. Plague was prevalent also in Uganda, Ecuador, Thailand, Brazil, Belgian Congo, Java, and Madura, which reported 1,543 deaths.

**America's Conquest of Bovine Tuberculosis Is Public Health Triumph.**—The Bureau of Animal Industry of the United States Department of Agriculture has officially recognized the conquest of bovine tuberculosis by declaring the whole State of California a "modified accredited area," a term signifying the practical eradication of the disease from the herds of the state.

Dr. John R. Mohler, Chief of the Bureau, stated:

"The attainment of this goal exemplifies the diligent efforts of cattle owners, public officials, and other coöperators, over a period of some two score years. Many organizations sympathetic with the objectives of reducing economic loss and at the same time removing a menace to human health have given valiant support."

Although testing of cattle has been carried on for twenty years in California, real progress was not made until the passage of the O'Donnell Bill by the State Legislature in

1937. This bill, support for which was gained throughout the state by the California Tuberculosis Association and the California Dairy Council, made available \$1,500,000 of state funds during the biennium for the eradication of bovine tuberculosis. This amount was matched by Federal funds.

Throughout the nation the conquest has cost one-quarter of a billion dollars, but it has added a half-billion dollars a year to the agricultural income of the nation.

In commenting on the success of the conquest, Surgeon-General Parran calls it one of the greatest forward steps in public health, making America the envy of all nations.

**California Holds United States Wine-Drinking Crown.**—California far outstrips any other state in the nation in production and consumption of wine, according to figures published in a new bulletin of the University of California College of Agriculture.

In 1938, for example, the bulletin shows that California consumed approximately six times as much commercial wine per capita as any other state. The state's per capita consumption in that year was 3.14 gallons, as compared with a national average of .54 gallons.

At the present time, says the bulletin, California produces more than 80 per cent of wine made in the United States. The 1939 commercial production in the state reached 68,000,000 gallons. Dessert and appetizer wines account for the largest percentage of this production, although the bulk of wines produced in the world are table wines. According to the bulletin, increased consumption of wines of both classes is expected in the future.

Entitled, "Commercial Production of Table Wines," the bulletin was written by Doctors M. A. Amerine and M. A. Joslyn of the College of Agriculture. It may be obtained free of charge from the College of Agriculture, Giannini Hall, on the Berkeley campus or from county offices of the Agricultural Extension Service.

**Predict Increase of Insanity Among Elderly.**—There will be a huge increase in mental disease of the aged in America if present trends continue, Dr. Oscar Kaplan, University of California psychologist, predicted recently.

Doctor Kaplan, who has just completed a study of the psychopathology of later life, said that the increase in insanity in America in recent years is due largely to a rise in the number of persons above forty-five being admitted to institutions.

He pointed out that in 1937 approximately 49.5 per cent of all first admissions to state hospitals in the United States were more than forty-five years of age.

On the basis of present trends the percentage of persons above sixty-five in the United States will double in the next thirty or forty years, and Doctor Kaplan says that this in itself will add greatly to the number of older demented.

Other factors which will lead to an increase in the number of elder mental cases admitted to institutions include:

The increase in population of the United States as a whole means that the absolute number of persons above forty-five will be greatly increased.

The improvement in public institutions and resultant rise in public confidence will make relatives more willing to part with troublesome older members of the family.

The trend toward urbanization, although it has been arrested in many places by the development of suburban areas, may make it necessary for families to give elder psychotics over to institutions. Urbanization creates problems unknown to simpler society; it is easier to care for seniles on a farm than in a city.

Better diagnosis may result in more commitments.

**Press Clippings.**—Some news items from the daily press on matters related to medical practice follow:

#### Surgeons Elect Stanford Man

*Dr. Philip K. Gilman Chosen President Here by Pacific Coast Group*

Dr. Philip K. Gilman, professor of surgery at Stanford University, is the newly elected president of the Pacific Coast Surgical Association.

By special invitation of Mayor Rossi of San Francisco, the Golden Gate City will be hostess at the next convention of the surgeons, one year hence. But today they will be at Santa Anita.

The doctors closed the formal and scientific sessions of their four-day convention at the Ambassador Hotel yesterday morning, adjourning to attend a luncheon and reception at the home of their retiring president Dr. Charles F. Sturgeon, 173 S. Hudson Avenue.

Discussions during the final session included observations on an operation for relief of bilateral abductor cord paralysis by Dr. Brian T. King; remarks on an instrument for retraction of viscera during peritoneoscopy, by Doctors Samuel Robinson and L. Gordon Fiske; hyperparathyroidism, by Dr. H. S. Chapman; carcinoma following hysterectomy, by Dr. Raymond E. Watkins, and an appliance for colostomy control, by Dr. Otis F. Lamson.

Besides Doctor Gilman, president, other officers selected include Dr. William J. Norris of Los Angeles, vice-president; Dr. R. D. Forbes, Seattle abdominal surgeon, second vice-president, and Dr. Frederick Reichert, professor of neuro-surgery at Stanford, secretary.—*Los Angeles Times*, February 22.

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#### Surgeons Learn of Caltech Work

*Man-made Lightning, Plant Hormones and Vitamins Need Explained*

Man-made lightning inside and nature's own variety outside intrigued fifty members of the Pacific Coast Surgical Association who visited the California Institute of Technology yesterday.

They were shown about the school by Dr. Hardin Craig, Jr., who explained the workings of the special equipment in the "1,000,000-volt laboratory," displayed the 20-inch telescope mirror and other wonders.

The surgeons are meeting in a four-day convention in Los Angeles, with business sessions at the Ambassador Hotel.

The medical men viewed the latest work in heredity in the Kerckhoff Biological Laboratory and learned of plant hormones in the Caltech greenhouse.

Only speaker on the morning program at the Institute of Technology was Dr. Henry Borsook, who explained the part vitamins are destined to play in the national defense effort of the United States.

Doctor Borsook described the Caltech plan whereby staple foods are soon to be fortified by vitamins before they reach the shelves of the grocery stores. He stressed the need for specific vitamins for selected groups—such as aviators.—*Los Angeles Times*, February 2.

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#### Medics Face Antitrust Laws Trial

Washington, February 5 (AP).—Three medical societies and twenty-one of the country's leading physicians were summoned today to stand trial in district court on once-quashed charges of violating the Sherman antitrust act.

The government after almost three years of litigation brought back for consideration an anti-monopoly suit against the American Medical Association, the District of Columbia Medical Society, the Harris County, Texas, Medical Society and the twenty-one physicians.

The societies and the individuals were indicted by a District of Columbia grand jury on charges of "acting in restraint of trade" in refusing to cooperate with physicians of Group Health Association, an organization of federal government employees providing medical service on a prepayment basis.

In July, 1940, Justice James M. Proctor of the federal district court quashed the grand jury's indictment, terming it a "highly colored, argumentative discourse." His opinion was reversed, however, by the United States court of appeals and the case was remanded to district court.—*San Francisco Call-Bulletin*, February 5.